

Rehearsal Notes 4.12.16

Two to go! Good job last night with “I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes”! Feeling those 7 pulses in a measure makes a difference!

Here is an NPR link to the research we talked about earlier this year regarding synchronization of heart rates in choir singers.

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2013/07/09/200390454/when-choirs-sing-many-hearts-beat-as-one>

Sell those tickets!!! Just a couple of weeks left to fill up the house. It would really be a shame to miss this one.

Thank you again to all of you who are working to make our concert happen. So many folks doing so much!

Here is a link to an article about us in the Pilot online edition. Hopefully this will be in a print edition soon.

http://www.thepilot.com/news/features/choral-society-performing-spring-concert-this-month/article_80d7e45c-f5f2-11e5-89a2-7bec5dc974b0.html

Dress rehearsal is on April 23 at 9:45 a.m. at Pinecrest High School. Please, please be punctual-not our strong suit. Plan ahead so that you can be on time. Thank you.

Rehearsal Order: Contrary to what I said last week, based on last evening’s rehearsal, we will not rehearse in performance order this week.

1. **How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings**

2. **Deep River**

3. **Sing Me to Heaven**-I enjoyed the “surround sound” last evening. We are having a hard time staying in tune. A couple (a lot) of suggestions: 1. Be aware of your own tuning. Test yourself by singing a line with no accompaniment (except a starting pitch), then test yourself at the end. Are you in tune? If so, add another line (without resetting the pitch) and check again etc. One voice can pull a section down. I wish we had time to sing in small groups and pinpoint the source of our pitch issues, but time does not allow that luxury. Be responsible for your own pitch! 2. We could all stand to be more physically connected to our sound. Is your posture correct? Do you have sufficient breath? Are you physically moving into the phrase? Poor energy causes pitch issues. 3. Flattening can occur in descending melodic lines. Think up when you descend. 4. Sometimes ‘scoopers’ never quite make it up to the pitch. If you don’t know what scooping is, see me and I’ll check to see if you are one. 5. Sing freely and without tension. This is particularly a problem for sopranos if the part is too high for them. (Consider a move to alto). Relax the jaw and throat so that you can phonate freely. Basses, be careful no to sing too heavily. Altos listening is key for you. Stay away from chest voice. Tenors don’t push or reach for notes—think of your tone floating on the breath. (Actually these suggestions are good for everyone). 6. Unification of vowel sounds-we have talked about this a lot, but most adult singers sing like they were taught in high school or college and it is very hard to make changes from a long established technique. Like vowels help keep the pitch accurate. 7. Mind your vibrato! Sometimes vibrato moves from one pitch

to another which can cause tuning issues. 7. Proper breath support-Use your abdominal muscles to support the air column. 8. Finally, be mentally sharp and in the moment. Listen across the choir. Staying in tune requires being in the here and now, energized, attentive. Just going through the motions yields lackluster results. Live the music!!!

4. **And I Saw a New Heaven**-we have improved! There are still some weak entrances and tuning issues with B naturals and B flats. (Refer to item 3). I want the last page to be filled with hope and serenity. Eyes up will help convey that!
5. **Hark I Hear the Harps Eternal**-We're getting there. This needs the energy of conviction. Anyone, and soloists also, who has the C, D, F, F figure in Hallelujah (first example p. 3 next to last measure soprano and tenor), there is no E in this line. It does not ascend C,D,E,F. In fact, there is no E in this entire piece due to its pentatonic nature.
6. **I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes**-So much better!
7. The Ground-this was rushed through last evening. I want to take time at the ends of phrases etc. Relax!
8. **Requiem**-as much as we can get through.